

Dear Senators and Congresspersons:

I am unable to physically attend today's hearing on Lyme Disease, but I do wish to submit written testimony to be entered into the record.

I am a 63 year-old man who was diagnosed with chronic, disseminated Lyme Disease five years ago. I was misdiagnosed for DECADES, since doctor after doctor relied on the worthless two-tier testing for diagnosis. Consequently, I endured decades of painful arthritis, multiple orthopedic surgeries including joint replacement, cardiac arrhythmias, neurological symptoms resembling MS and ALS, blurry vision, panic disorder, extreme anxiety and depression.

I ended up diagnosing myself, and got confirmation by a positive test at a Lyme specialty lab. I have been aggressively treating for five years according to ILADS protocols and have made good progress. But a cure remains elusive.

I have learned a lot about Lyme Disease since diagnosis. I have learned that my entire family likely has this disease, and that my mother probably died of it. Here in the northwest corner of the State, I estimate half the population is infected, most misdiagnosed.

I know of two women here who died of this disease, one at age 57 and the other 67. The younger woman did not even have it listed on her death certificate by her treating physician, who shamefully dismissed her symptoms for years.

The standard two-tier testing for Lyme is worthless. Yet doctors in Connecticut continue to rely on it for diagnosis. IDSA is to blame for this, but so also is CDC, as both have deliberately promulgated guidelines for diagnosis and treatment that cause suffering on a gargantuan scale. All of us who have studied this disease know that MILLIONS are infected, not thousands. The wreckage caused by this willful ignorance includes suicide, bankruptcy, divorce, and yes, I am convinced, homicide.

I would like to take the opportunity to note that my own Congressman, John Larson, has REFUSED to respond to my several emails to him questioning why he does nothing about Lyme Disease and doesn't even mention it on his website. As a lifelong Democrat, I find this inexcusable. A little research revealed he receives large campaign contributions from the insurance industry. I consider him an embarrassment to the party.

As CDC is a federal government agency, I urge this Congress to bring this agency to task for their horrific failures. They must not be allowed to continue using our tax dollars to kill us. Listen to the ILADS doctors. Listen to researchers Alan MacDonald and Eva Sapi. It is time to stop the carnage.

Thank you for listening. I am requesting an acknowledgement that my testimony has been received and entered into the official record.

Sincerely,

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